

WE CLAIM:

1. A method of representing formatting functionality available to an application program for applying to a document, comprising:

saving a document as an Extensible Markup Language (XML) representation whereby XML markup is applied to the document to represent text and data objects, properties and attributes including formatting styles applied to the document;

enumerating all formatting styles available to the document according to functionality of an application program creating or editing the document;

setting a default designation of the enumerated formatting styles as locked for use or locked for non-use;

for any of the enumerated formatting styles that may be used or that may not be used in contradiction to the default designation for all enumerated formatting styles, designating said any of the enumerated formatting styles as an exception to the default designation; and

saving data identifying the enumerated formatting styles, identifying the default designation, and identifying any exceptions to the default designation to a data structure separate from the document.

2. The method of Claim 1, further comprising applying an XML markup to the document representing a count of the enumerated formatting styles, representing the default designation for the enumerated formatting styles, and representing formatting styles that are designated as exceptions to the default designation.

3. The method of Claim 2, further comprising applying an XML markup to the document representing a pointer to the data structure.

4. The method of Claim 3, further comprising:

opening the document by a subsequent consuming application;

parsing the document for XML markup representing a count of the enumerated formatting styles, representing the default designation for the enumerated formatting styles, and representing formatting styles that are designated as exceptions to the default designation; and

parsing the document for a pointer to the data structure for determining formatting styles enumerated for the document.

5. The method of Claim 4, further comprising determining the default designation for the enumerated formatting styles.

6. The method of Claim 5, further comprising determining whether any exceptions to the default designation are designated for the document.

7. The method of Claim 6, whereby if a desired formatting style is available for use, instantiating the formatting style by the consuming application according to formatting functionality available to the consuming application associated with the desired formatting style.

8. The method of Claim 7, further comprising formatting the document with the instantiated formatting style.

9. A method of representing formatting functionality available to an application program for applying to a document, comprising:

saving a document as an Extensible Markup Language (XML) representation whereby XML markup is applied to the document to represent text and data objects, properties and attributes including formatting styles applied to the document;

enumerating all formatting styles available to the document according to functionality of an application program creating or editing the document;

setting a default designation or the enumerated formatting styles as locked for use or locked for non-use;

for any of the enumerated formatting styles that may be used or that may not be used in contradiction to the default designation for all enumerated formatting styles, designating said any of the enumerated formatting styles as an exception to the default designation; and

saving data identifying the enumerated formatting styles, identifying the default designation, and identifying any exceptions to the default designation to a data structure separate from the document.

10. The method of Claim 9, further comprising applying an XML markup to the document representing a count of the enumerated formatting styles, representing the default designation for the enumerated formatting styles, and representing formatting styles that are designated as exceptions to the default designation.

11. The method of Claim 10, further comprising applying an XML markup to the document representing a pointer to the data structure.

12. The method of Claim 11, further comprising:  
opening the document by a subsequent consuming application;  
parsing the document for XML markup representing a count of the enumerated formatting styles, representing the default designation for the enumerated formatting styles, and representing formatting styles that are designated as exceptions to the default designation; and

parsing the document for a pointer to the data structure for determining formatting styles enumerated for the document.

13. The method of Claim 12, further comprising determining the default designation for the enumerated formatting styles.

14. The method of Claim 13, further comprising determining whether any exceptions to the default designation are designated for the document.

15. The method of Claim 14, whereby if a desired formatting style is available for use, instantiating the formatting style by the consuming application according to formatting functionality available to the consuming application associated with the desired formatting style.

16. The method of Claim 15, further comprising formatting the document with the instantiated formatting style.